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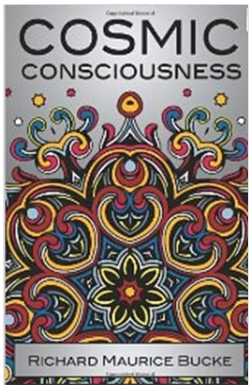
BOOK REVIEW

Richard Maurice Bucke. *Cosmic Consciousness*

Reviewed by Andrea Berger



In “Cosmic Consciousness”, Richard Maurice Bucke brings forth the notion of cosmic consciousness, a new ability that, though present in a small number of individuals throughout history, will likely need many, many years (perhaps centuries) to consistently become present in humanity at large. Bucke believes that humanity evolved over time from simple consciousness (pre-consciousness), to self-consciousness, to cosmic consciousness (super-consciousness). According to Bucke, individuals with cosmic consciousness possess a highly developed moral sense, self-restraint, warm heart, strong sympathies, courage, strong religious feeling, good physique and good health.

Cosmic Consciousness is indescribable – a life-changing experience filled with ineffable light, a sense of exultation, immense joy and instantaneous intellectual illumination, when it becomes clear that the Universe is a living Presence, God, where there is no sin, no evil, nor death - all things work for the good of each other, the foundational principle being love. Often the person’s physical appearance also changes (“transfiguration”), they acquire psychic abilities, and their personality gains charm.